

Jesus had compassion for people. He gave himself freely for others. In what ways do you see the Church (God's people) living compassion? In what ways do you see the Church missing the mark when it comes to compassion? How is Christian compassion different than that which is portrayed on our televisions? - or is there a difference?

No matter what your situation, God wants you to use your resources to advance His kingdom.

Consider something you have or want that you could instead give up for the Kingdom of God. How would that or could that impact the lives of others? How would it change you own attitude when it comes to generosity?

Continue to seek God for our Breakthrough Initiative and ask Him to reveal ways you can give generously. Pray for grace to follow through on His commands, and trust Him to provide all that you need.

Many Bible verses promise that God rewards those who give (2 Cor. 9:11; Prov. 11:24). But remember that not all generous Christians become rich. The Lord may repay our giving by blessing us financially, spiritually, emotionally, or in eternity (Matt. 6:19-20).

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Series: **Breakthrough**

The Passion of Breakthrough

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Acts 3:1-16

Right Things Matter

James 4:17 Rom 1:20-25

People Matter

Willing to be interrupted

Mr 6:34

Pay attention to needs

1 Jo 3:17

Hope Matters

Eph 1:18 Rom 8:24-25;28

How does one determine generosity? Are you generous? Maybe you feel that giving liberally is a luxury you can't afford. You just don't have enough money to be generous. Yet the most generous financial gift mentioned in Scripture had very little monetary value.

Read Mark 12: 41-44.

What is the passage teaching us about the true value of the gift we sow?

What is Jesus telling his disciples about the correct attitude when it comes to giving generously?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

How does a person decide in his heart what to give?

What do you think Paul had in mind concerning the process of decision?

Cross Reference this with 2 Cor 8:5

How did the Macedonians determine what to give and how can that help us be generous people?

The Adam Clarke Commentary says that *"the poorest person has it in his power to make his mite as acceptable to the Lord, by simplicity of intention, and purity of affection, as the millions given by the affluent."* In what ways could this motivate you to give generously?

The widow gave "all she had to live on" (Mark 12:44). In other words, the widow forfeited the money that would have bought food for the day. Her gift demonstrated amazing trust in God.

Imagine you lost your wallet and needed to buy gas in order to make it home. What if at the same time, you were met by a beggar on the street, and at the same time you discovered a \$5

bill in your pocket. What is your next step? Where does the money go?

Those who have an abundance usually spend it on themselves--better possessions, nicer vacations, or upgraded homes or cars. Or they may pay for more services and conveniences. Those with financial shortages often resist giving to the Lord's work or to those less fortunate. They cling to what little they have, fearing there won't be enough if they give.

Read Ephesians 4:28 and 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

What seems to be the point of gaining resources?

Matthew Henry, an 18th century pastor, wrote, "When we can cheerfully provide for others, out of our own necessary provision . . . and trust God to provide for us some other way, this is thank-worthy."

Read James 2:14-17 and 2 Cor 8:7

If Time Magazine published a list of the things that make us more spiritual, what would be on the list?

If James and Paul published a list, what would be on the list?

According to what we read, how can it be known that we are people of faith?

Our faith is tied to our generosity to others. The degree to which we are generous for the well being of others says a lot about our spiritual formation and maturity.